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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A shock absorbing pad comprising a molded rubbery elastomeric material having a generally smooth surface on the side adapted to abut a soccer player's head and the opposed face having an open grid structure defined by outwardly projecting patterns of short ribs or patterns of short and mid-sized ribs with at least some of the intersections of the ribs being defined by outwardly projecting cylinders which are taller than ribs or, if both types of ribs are present, the cylinders are taller than both the shortest and the mid-sized ribs, top-to-bottom to provide airways or passages for the flow of cooling air and to enhance player comfort.

9 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets